

ATHERSTONE
Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1949

ATHERSTONE:
E. S. COLMAN, "News" Office, Long Street.
1950

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor C. S. WARD

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor C. GISBOURNE

Councillors:

Mrs. B. V. Griffiths, Miss M. A. Trye, Miss L. R. Wicksteed, Rev. Bracebridge L. Hall, L. Ashley, W. Bailey, N. W. Blower, W. A. Brown, J. A. S. Durno, W. Goode, P. Hastings, C. Marklow, R. Read, J. Smith.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (part-time):

MARK BRADFORD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

S. B. ACTON, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

R. A. MARGOSCHIS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk/Pupils in Health Department:

R. P. WARD (Armed Forces)

CARL F. KEMPER

GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION OF THE DISTRICT

The Rural District of Atherstone lies practically in the centre of England in the northern part of the County of Warwickshire. High ground rises to the west forming a lovely range of hills, in places about 500 feet in height.

The busy trunk road known as Watling Street (A5) passes through the town of Atherstone and the middle of the rural district, as also does the main London-Crewe railway line.

Atherstone is of great antiquity. Indisputable evidence of Roman association has been discovered from time to time. At the beginning of Norman times Atherstone appears to have been well established, and was entered in the Domesday Book as Aderstone.

Social Conditions and Occupations

The interests of Atherstone have always been industrial, commercial and agricultural. Coal mining and hat manufacturing are the principal industries, whilst there are also brick, pipe and tile works, engineering works and other minor industries. Splendid opportunities exist for the introduction of new as well as the extension of some of the industries.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Atherstone.

To the Chairman and Members of the Atherstone Rural
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my fourth Annual Report on the health of the District.

The year 1949, from a health aspect, has, generally speaking, been a satisfactory one.

The important rate, namely the birth rate, remains high at 18.1 per 1,000 of the population, though the figure has yearly declined since 21.8 per 1,000 was reached in 1946. The birth rate for England and Wales was 16.7 per 1,000 of the population and 18.0 per 1,000 for smaller comparable towns.

The crude death rate of 9.8 per 1,000 is less than the average of the preceding five years. For England and Wales the death rate was 11.7 per 1,000.

The Infantile Mortality Rate of 28 per 1,000 is the lowest ever recorded in the District. For the previous five years this figure averaged 40.2 per 1,000. The 1948 figure was 28.8 per 1,000.

With regard to infectious diseases, the low figure of notifications shews that there has been no outbreak of any notifiable disease during the period.

I regret that milk production control passed into the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in October, 1949. We are now left without powers of supervising the hygienic production of milk at the farms, but have the responsibility of protecting public health from milk which is liable to cause disease and are obliged to see that hygienic measures are carried out in all stages between the farmer and the consumer.

I would like to thank Mr. Acton and the staff of the Health Department for their loyal support and assistance, and in conclusion to express my appreciation to Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Yours faithfully,

MARK BRADFORD,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area in acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	21,897
Population, census, 1921	..	..	..	..	..	..	20,982
Population, census, 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	21,869
Intercensal increase in population	..	..	..	..	..	..	887
Population 1949 (mid-year estimate)	..	..	..	..	..	..	23,710
Number of inhabited houses, 1949 (V.L. January, 1950)	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,374
Density of population, <i>i.e.</i> , number of persons per acre, 1949	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.08
Rateable value of District	..	..	..	..	..	..	£103,844
Sum represented by penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£390
Excess of males over females (at Census)	..	..	..	..	..	..	531

Parish Population, 1931 Census—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ansley	1059	1012	2071
Atherstone	3085	3160	6245
Baddesley Ensor	843	760	1603
Baxterley	215	193	408
Bentley	139	118	257
Caldecote	84	49	133
Grendon	644	612	1256
Hartshill	1292	1250	2542
Mancetter	353	349	702
Merevale	42	60	102
Oldbury	37	47	84
Polesworth	3407	3059	6466
			21,869

VITAL STATISTICS

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births	229	199	428
Legitimate	216	190	406
Illegitimate	13	9	22
Birth-rate	..	..	18.1
Still-births	3	4	7
Rate per 1000 births	..	..	16.3
Deaths	121	112	233
Death-rate	..	..	9.8
Correction Factor	..	..	1.11
Corrected Death-rate	..	..	10.9
Infant deaths	6	6	12
Legitimate	5	5	10
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Infant mortality rate	..	..	28.03
Legitimate	..	..	24.63
Illegitimate	..	..	90.9

No. of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth—

From sepsis	0
From other causes	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

BIRTHS

The number of births registered in the Rural District was 428, 229 of the children were males and 199 females.

The number of illegitimate births registered was 22.

A proportion of the mothers seek admission to neighbouring hospitals for their confinement.

The birth-rate for the year is 18.1 per 1,000 of the population and is thus higher than for the whole of England and Wales (16.7 per 1000). In 148 smaller towns of comparable populations the birth rate was 18.0 per 1000. Our birth rate is the lowest recorded since 1943.

DEATHS

The number of deaths registered during the year was 233, giving a death rate of 9.8 per 1000 of the population. The death rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.7 per 1000 and for the 148 smaller towns 11.6 per 1000.

The diseases which have been especially active in adding to the number of deaths are—

	1949	1948
Diseases of the heart and blood-vessels	73	75
All forms of tuberculosis	8	11
Cancer	42	27
Cerebral hæmorrhage	26	37
Pneumonia	21	9
Death due to violence or suicide	7	18

NUMBER OF DEATHS FOR THE YEAR OF 1949

<i>Causes of Death</i>						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	..	..	..	..	0	0
2	Cerebro-spinal fever	..	..	..	..	0	0
3	Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	0	0
4	Whooping cough	..	..	..	..	0	0
5	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	0	0
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	3	3
7	Other forms of tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	2	0
8	Syphilitic diseases	..	..	..	..	0	0
9	Influenza	..	..	..	..	1	2

10	Measles	..	..	..	..	0	0
11	Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis	..	..	..	..	0	0
12	Ac. inf. encephalitis	..	..	..	..	0	1
13	Cancer of buc. cav. and œsophagus (M); uterus (F)	1	1	1	1	1	1
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	1	5
15	Cancer of breast	..	..	..	..	0	6
16	Cancer of all other sites	..	..	..	..	19	9
17	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	0	0
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	..	..	..	..	13	13
19	Heart diseases	..	..	..	..	33	32
20	Other diseases of circulatory system	..	..	..	..	6	2
21	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	6	5
22	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	11	10
23	Other respiratory diseases	..	..	..	..	2	0
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	..	..	..	..	0	2
25	Diarrhoea under 2 years	..	..	..	..	0	1
26	Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	1	1
27	Other digestive diseases	..	..	..	..	0	2
28	Nephritis	..	..	..	..	5	3
29	Puerperal sepsis	..	..	..	..	0	0
30	Other maternal causes	..	..	..	..	0	0
31	Premature birth	..	..	..	..	1	1
32	Congenital malformation, birth inj., infant. dis.	2	2	2	2	2	4
33	Suicide	..	..	..	..	1	0
34	Road traffic accidents	..	..	..	..	1	1
35	Other violent causes	..	..	..	..	2	2
36	All other causes	..	..	..	..	10	6
						121	112
						223	

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND INFANTILE MORTALITY IN ATHERSTONE, 1943 to 1949.

Year	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Registrar General's estimate of population	21,940	21,810	21,670	22,310	22,510	22,370	23,710
No. of Births	424	464	460	487	466	452	428
Birth Rate	19.3	21.2	21.2	21.8	20.7	19.3	18.1
No. of Deaths	213	239	210	241	229	222	233
Gross Death Rate	9.7	10.9	9.7	10.8	10.2	9.5	9.8
Infantile Mortality per 1000	49.5	40.9	45.7	47.2	38.6	28.8	28.0
Birth Rate (Average 5 yrs.)	20.84						
Death Rate (Average 5 yrs.)	10.26						
Infantile Mortality (Average 5 yrs.)	44.38						

INQUESTS

No. of sudden deaths reported to Coroner	..	..	26
No. of Inquests .. .. .	..	..	14
No. of Post-Mortem examinations	..	..	5

Certified cause of death—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>a.</i> Natural causes	12	6	18
<i>b.</i> Misadventure	0	2	2
<i>c.</i> Suicide whilst of unsound mind	1	0	1
<i>d.</i> Found drowned	0	0	0
<i>e.</i> Accidental	4	1	5
	<hr/> 17	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 26

INFANT WELFARE

There are centres at Hartshill, Atherstone, Dordon and Polesworth. Each centre is managed by a Committee of ladies who give their services and time to the work. The County Health Visitor and local Maternity Nurses are present. A medical man attends every other week.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following is the number of cases of infectious diseases notified by Medical Practitioners in the year ended 31st December, 1949.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Scarlet Fever	14	11	25
Diphtheria	0	1	1
Pneumonia	18	15	33
Erysipelas	1	0	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	1	1
Whooping Cough	8	13	21
Measles	16	17	33
	<hr/> 57	<hr/> 58	<hr/> 115

Cases of Diphtheria and serious cases of Scarlet Fever are treated in the Coventry Isolation Hospital. The Ministry of Health meets the cost of treatment under the National Health Service Act.

There were no deaths from Zymotic Diseases in the year.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

Year Ending Dec. 31st, 1949	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
	Pul- monary	Non- Pul- monary	Pul- monary	Non- Pul- monary	
(a) Number of cases on Reg- ister at beginning of year	62	14	41	19	136
b) Number of cases notified under Regulations of 1930 for first time in year	11	2	12	3	28
(c) Number of cases re- stored to Register ..	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Number of cases added to Register otherwise than by formal notifi- cation	3	—	—	—	3
(e) Number of cases re- moved from Register during the year	7	3	5	1	16
(f) Number of cases re- maining on Register on 31st Dec.	69	13	48	21	151

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

Health Department,
Council Offices,
Atherstone.
August, 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my eighth Annual Report on my part of the work of the Health Department.

A great deal of the work of the Department has been concerned with sub-standard houses and with property defects. The list of works done and nuisances abated ends the Report, and gives an impression of the labour involved for your staff in this direction alone.

The steadily increasing cost of property repair and improvement makes annually more difficult our task of encouraging owners to carry out works. Each year since the war ended in 1945, an increasing number of statutory notices under Housing and Public Health Acts have to be served to obtain compliance with our previous informal requests. Prior to 1939 it was the exception rather than the rule to look to statutory powers, but the standardisation of dwelling-house rents at 1939 level shews so little relative profit on investment properties that owners generally are so reluctant to repair that they have to be prodded into action. Statutory notices and threat of Court actions or ourselves carrying out the works encouraged retrenching owners to make compliance, and no legal proceedings were necessary in the year.

The collection and disposal of house refuse has given satisfaction during the year. Complaints are inseparable from work of this nature, and the faults brought to notice were pleasingly few.

The housing situation is still not improving. In December, 1948, there were 720 "live" applications for Council houses, of which 536 were from families living in lodgings. At the close of 1949 there were 923 "live" applications, 647 being from families who had not a home of their own.

The numerous other duties of the Department need no comment beyond the section allotted in the Report.

I would particularly like to thank Mr. Margoschis, your Additional Sanitary Inspector, for his efficient work and aid, and the staff of the Department for their assistance, and conclude with thanking the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the help and consideration they have given.

Commending this Report to your notice.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

SYDNEY B. ACTON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

GENERAL INSPECTION

The general inspection of the various premises within the district for the discovery of conditions causing or likely to cause nuisance has been carried out. The total number of inspections and re-visits made, and the number of defects and nuisances for which notices were given, is 1,468.

The following list gives some of the principal nuisances and defects which have been dealt with.

General Defects on property	..	..	1073
Defective closet accommodation	..	..	90
Defective and blocked drains	..	..	73
Rats and Mice Destruction Act	..	..	73
Nuisances from keeping animals	..	..	3
Offensive accumulations	..	..	5

333 houses were found to be not in all respects fit for human habitation. 293 of these were rendered fit, 40 being transferred to 1950 records.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SUPPLY

There are 166 farms and cowkeepers in the District. Of these, 119 produce milk for sale and the following are the numbers of persons registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Producers in the District	..	..	..	119
Producers outside the District	..	..	..	4
Retail Purveyors	..	..	..	49

On the 1st October, 1949, under the provisions of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, the Minister of Agriculture took from Local Authorities the responsibility for the administration of the Milk and Dairies Regulations and Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, so far as they relate to production. Local authorities are left with duties in the distribution of milk and the exercise of measures to protect public health.

To the end of September, visits of inspection of farms and dairies numbered 211. Animals, premises and milk utensils were generally kept in clean and satisfactory condition.

At January, 1949, 20 producers in the District were Attested or Tuberculin Tested producers, of which a further 28 had Accredited Licences.

Structural alterations, repairs and improvements carried out to farms and dairies in the three-quarters of the year, were as follows.

Farm No. 1—

New dairy constructed.

Farm No. 2—

New cowshed built for 12 cows.

Farm No. 3—

Drainage system relaid and semi-septic tank and percolating bed installed.

Farm No. 4—

Cowshed for 18 cows reconstructed.

Farm No. 5—

Shed for 12 cows extended and modernised.

HOUSING

The Rural Housing Survey, which was completed in June, 1947, shewed that of 5,051 houses of £16 and under rateable value, 1,906 (37%) were fit in all respects. Of these, 708 houses were owned by the Council. 1,351 (26.8%) were suffering minor defects. 1,277 (24.3%) were in need of extensive repair, structural alteration or improvement and 567 (11.2%) were classified to be demolished.

Pursuing the requirements of the Council, that all houses shall have separate sanitary accommodation and water laid on, further action was taken in that direction. Since the Rural Housing Survey was completed, water has been laid into 142 houses, and 126 houses have been provided with separate sanitary accommodation.

The Survey revealed that 552 of houses in Categories 2 and 3 had not water laid in. The reduction of these by more than one-quarter improves the lot of many. In the case of joint water closet accommodation, which is a most undesirable feature, the reduction to 368 of the 1947 figure of 494, shews some progress.

SELECTION OF TENANTS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES

By 1939 the Council had erected 708 houses ; none were built during the war-years, neither was the number affected by war damage. At the 31st March, 1950, the Council had completed a further 475 houses, making the total occupied Council houses 1,183, and another 154 houses (including 10 Duplex houses) were approved or under construction at that date.

In September, 1949, the Council adopted a Points Scheme, which closely follows the model of the Central Housing Advisory Committee. This Points Scheme is used only to throw up those applicants whose housing need is greatest, and in this respect it has some measure of success, but as no numerical system for describing so varying conditions could be infallible, the Scheme has been found to have shortcomings. In practice, when selecting tenants for a batch of houses, those applicants with the highest numbers of points are extracted for investigation, but also all other applications are carefully examined and those who might possibly be selected are included in the Committee short-list. Those short-listed applicants are then visited and individual reports made up on the circumstances of their accommodation and details relevant thereto. The resulting information placed before the Tenants Selection Committee, together with points assessment, forms a generally sound foundation for decisions.

The Council shew themselves to be anxious to allot the houses in the fairest possible way. In order that no favouritism can be shewn they decided that code numbers should be used instead of names at the Selection Committee, thereby to further ensure selection on need alone.

In adopting the Points Scheme the Council did not undertake that applicants with the highest numbers of points would necessarily be allocated a house before other applicants with a lower number of points.

The number of cases on a short-list before a Committee is usually about three times the number of houses to be let on that occasion. The Chairman of the Housing Committee and myself are responsible for making up each short-list.

The list of applicants for Council houses, notwithstanding that it is continually being brought up-to-date by the removal of "dead" applications, continued to grow during the year.

At the 31st December, 1949, there were 923 "live" applications for Council houses, whilst in the preceding January there were 727 applicants. The reason for this is very evident. It is seen in the Medical Officer of Health's Report that births exceed deaths annually by around 200. The local Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, informs me that between 200 and 250 marriages occur yearly in our area. The Ministry of Health gave the Council an allocation of 100 houses for 1949 and a further 50 for 1950, together with a suggestion that, if applied for later in 1950, more might be allocated if merited.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

The work of house refuse collection is carried out by direct labour in the Parishes of Ansley, Baxterley, Bentley, Caldecote, Dordon, Mancetter, Merevale, Oldbury and Polesworth.

In the remainder of the District, comprising the Parishes of Atherstone, Baddesley Ensor, Grendon and Hartshill, house refuse removal is done by Contractors. The Council provide and maintain the vehicle used by the Atherstone Contractor. Our other Contractor provides and maintains his own vehicle.

Of vehicles, we have three S.D. Freighters, one 1946 and two 1948 and a 1943 Karrier Bantam.

The District being largely urbanised and including coal mining as the principal industry, the composition of house refuse varies considerably from Parish to Parish. From the Parishes of Dordon and Polesworth 10 cu. yard vehicle test weighings averaged 3 tons 3 cwt. These being the two heaviest Parishes.

Few complaints of neglect of collection were received during the year, and from this I take it that the service gave general satisfaction.

The following table shews the numbers of houses cleared of refuse, pails, privy-middens and dry pits emptied; the number of loads of ashes used for covering purposes and numbers of loads taken to the tips by the direct labour collection service.

Houses Cleared	Pails	Privies	Ashpits	Covering Ashes	Total Loads
115,296	13,956	22	22	120	1,622

On the 17th December, the Contractor dealing with the Parishes of Baddesley Ensor, Grendon and Hartshill gave surprising notice that he would not be tendering for 1950. No other tenders were received

and arrangements had to be made to take over these Parishes to direct labour on the 1st January, 1950.

In August, 1949, the Council adopted the conditions of service of the West Midlands Joint Industrial Council for Manual Workers, together with the Sickness Benefit Scheme and two weeks' holiday.

HOUSE REFUSE DISPOSAL

The Council have tips in the Parishes of Ansley, Dordon and Warton. The tip on the Baddesley Ensor Common was completed during the year. Refuse is taken to the tips from the neighbouring areas. The Dordon Tip is the principal one and refuse from some 17,000 population is dealt with there, by controlled tipping. The Hartshill Contractor has his own tip in that Parish. The Ansley tip is making up low lying wooded land. The Warton Tip is in a disused quarry.

The Dordon Tip has continued to be free from crickets since 1946, in which summer it was liberally treated with insecticides to remove a cricket nuisance which had existed in varying degrees over the preceding twenty years. Throughout the summer of 1949 Gammexane dust was applied to all uncovered surfaces at the close of each day. We were again fortunate in obtaining soil for covering refuse from the Watling Street improvements which were carried out by the County Council. Builders and other private firms who have soil, ashes or other innocuous refuse suitable for covering purposes are encouraged to deliver same to the Tip. The Dordon Tip has been kept, in consequence, in good order during the year, and no complaints have been received in spite of the nearness of dwelling-houses. In mid-year fire was found in a completed portion of the Dordon Tip. Prompt action, the hire of a dragline for trenching off and check of tip temperatures adjoining succeeded in rendering the fire harmless. Exeavated material was later levelled by a bulldozer.

SALVAGE

With the impending collapse of the Waste Paper market in June the Council was advised that further collections would mean substantial losses. Accordingly, on the 19th July, collection of waste paper was discontinued.

In the seven months salvage sales income amounted to £482 8d. 8d. In 1947 income was £599 0s. 7d., and in 1948 £1,054 12s. 6d. The increased turnover on waste paper was made possible by the purchase of a mechanical baling press early in 1948. This machine has been retained for use should the need for waste paper make prices closer approximating to collection costs.

FACTORIES

There are 107 factories on the register, of which 28 are bakehouses. Outworkers employed in the district, chiefly by hat manufacturers, numbered 23, which is a considerable decrease when compared with last year's figure of 67.

Visits are made, at intervals, to these premises and the number and

type of defects found and remedied are shewn in the table below, together with the total number of visits made.

Details	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(i) Factories where Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforced by L.A.	10	—	—
(ii) Factories where Sec. 7 only enforced by L.A.	173	—	—
		Defects found	Defects Remedied
Unsatisfactory means fire escape		1	1
Want of cleanliness (S.1)		7	7
Overcrowding (S.2)		—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)		—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)		—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)		—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)			
(a) insufficient		3	1
(b) unsuitable or defective		6	6
(c) not separate for sexes		2	1
(d) inadequately indicated		2	2
(e) artificial lighting provided		2	2

The sanitary condition of factories has been well maintained.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations are satisfied by the way in which meat is handled by the butchers. All meat for the district comes from the Government Abattoir at Nuncaton where all carcasses and offal are inspected before despatch. A number of pigs are slaughtered during the year within the district and, as time permits, as many as possible are inspected, the evidence of diseased conditions found being only very slight.

Visits, 516 in all, were made from time to time to all food preparation premises and catering establishments. The 28 Bakehouses within the district are maintained generally in a satisfactory state of cleanliness and in compliance with Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, as also are the following premises which are registered under Section 14 of the same Act for the manufacture, preparation or sale of preserved foods, etc. :—

Fried Fish and Chip Shops	28
Preparation of cooked meats, etc.	30
Sale and/or manufacture of Ice Cream	39

As a result of the visits made a steady improvement in the general standard of premises dealing with food is being obtained, both with regard to the structure of the premises and the personnel employed at them. During the year 37 defects have been brought to the notice

of the various occupiers and owners, 6 of these are still outstanding, but improvements effected include the following :—

Bakehouses

1. Floor relaid.
2. Floor partly relaid.
3. Artificial lighting provided in closet.

Fried Fish Shops

1. New concrete floor laid and new sink provided. Structure of shop generally repaired and painted throughout.
2. Walls and ceiling repaired.
3. New preparation room constructed with concrete floor, glazed sink fixed with water laid on and drainage to main sewer.
4. Preparation room improved, floor relaid, sink fixed with water laid on and drainage to main sewer.

New Premises

One new Fish Frying Shop has been opened during the year, the premises used being newly constructed, and in such a manner as to comply with all requirements. Two new catering establishments have also been opened ; one is a temporary wooden structure and the other an existing shop converted. Visits to catering establishments have proved them to be maintained satisfactorily though some improvements are desirable.

UNFIT FOOD

The articles of food which were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption at the various food shops, etc., are given in the following table. The food was destroyed except when it was at all possible to salvage it.

No.	Description	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
404	Eggs		1	22½
*271	Eggs		1	6
372	Tins of Meat, Milk, Fish, Fruit, Vegetables etc. (Blown, holed, etc.)	3	2	7
*13	Tins of Meat, Milk, Fish, Fruit, Vegetables etc. (unsaleable condition)			14
4	Meat and other pastes			7½
	Soft Fruit (Oranges, grapefruit, etc.) ..			7
	Dried Fruit, (dates, currants)		2	1
	Cooking Fat			1
	Cheese			13½
	Cooked Meats (including Pies)			20
	Sausage (including Vegetable Links) (decom.)	1	0	18
	Bacon and Ham (decomposition)		1	1½
29	Mixed Pickles		1	1
4	Salad dressing			
6	Coffee essence (fluid)			2½
	Jams, mincemeat, etc.			5
	Ground ginger			5½
	Total	7	0	17

ICE CREAM

During the year 13 new Registrations have been made, under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, of premises storing and selling Ice Cream. This brings the total number of vendors in the district to 39, and shows an increase of exactly 50 per cent. on last year's figure of 26 Registered premises. Each of the new Registrations has been for the "storage and sale only" of Ice Cream and the number of vendors manufacturing their own product remains, as last year, at 10. The remainder have their Ice Cream delivered to them in bulk, mainly from factories without the district.

Sampling was carried out, mainly during the months from May to September, and a total of 100 samples was sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Coventry for Bacteriological Examination. In addition to the Methylene Reduction test an additional test was made for the presence of Faecal Coli and, based on the results of these tests, the samples were included in one of the four recognised Grades, the best quality, bacteriologically, being Grade 1 and the worst Grade 4.

Of the 100 samples taken, 50 were of Ice Cream manufactured in the district and 50 of the commodity manufactured without the district. The table below gives the number of samples falling into each of the grades and separate for that made in the district and that from outside, and clearly indicates that the standard of cleanliness of the "home" product is very satisfactory when compared with the "imported" commodity. The totals, in the last line of the table, are given as a percentage of the total samples taken and the figures in brackets are the corresponding percentages for last year. It will be seen that there is considerable improvement in the number of samples falling into the lowest grade.

Grade	1	2	3	4	Totals
Manufactured in the district	19	8	11	12	50
Manufactured outside the district	12	7	15	16	50
Totals	31%	15%	26%	28%	100%
1948 %	(32.5%)	(9.3%)	(20.8%)	(37.4%)	

WATER SUPPLIES

With the exception of one Parish of some 34 properties, the whole of the District is served by Council main water from three deep wells and bore holes, and from one of the local collieries. The water is pumped to a series of reservoirs from which it gravitates.

The Council main water was sampled several times during the year and following representations to the Council, automatic chlorination plant was placed on order in December. The existing chlorination plants in the three stations had been found to be unsatisfactory being on a drip-feed system and relying too much on manual operation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

All houses where infectious diseases were notified were disinfected and the bedding, clothing, etc., passed through the steam disinfector where necessary.

The homes of infectious tuberculous persons are similarly treated when a patient dies or is removed to sanatorium or changes address.

Free supply of disinfectant for prophylactic measures in houses where infectious disease exists is carried on from six premises in various parts of the district.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are two premises in the district where the business of rag and bone dealing is carried on.

CANAL BOATS

Occasional visits are paid to the docks and wharves.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The emission of "Black Smoke" from a factory chimney for more than two minutes in the aggregate in any period of half-an-hour is deemed to be a Statutory Nuisance and a Smoke Nuisance under a Byelaw made under the Public Health Act, 1936.

The casual observation of factory chimneys resulted in eleven observations being made over timed periods of half-an-hour. A twelfth observation over a similar period was made as a result of a complaint.

The results of the observations are indicated in the following table. By following up any poor result by a visit to the factory a reduction in the emission of black smoke usually results, as is indicated by the figures. In the case of the fourth factory no serious cause for complaint was found either from the timed observation (No. 12) or from subsequent casual observation.

	Observation Number	Date of Observation	Minutes of		
			Black	Moderate	None or Slight
First Factory	1	18/2	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$	20
	2	18/2	$\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$27\frac{3}{4}$
	9	25/7	nil	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$28\frac{3}{4}$
	11	8/12	4	2	24
Second Factory	3	18/2	$2\frac{1}{2}$	3	$24\frac{1}{2}$
	4	18/2	nil	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$28\frac{1}{2}$
	10	25/7	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$27\frac{1}{2}$
Third Factory	5	17/5	$7\frac{1}{4}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$17\frac{1}{4}$
	6	18/5	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	26
	7	18/5	$1\frac{3}{4}$	3	$25\frac{1}{4}$
	8	19/5	nil	nil	30
Fourth Factory	12	8/12	$2\frac{1}{2}$	10	$17\frac{1}{2}$

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

There is one full-time Rodent Operative employed and the Ministry of Food methods are carried out by him.

During the year 73 premises were treated by the Rodent Operative, apart from those he followed up which were done by occupiers who would not avail themselves of the service.

Of premises owned by the Council, 11 treatments were given at Sewage Works ; 4 at tips and 14 at other Council properties. 18 business premises and 46 private dwellings were dealt with. From these premises the Rodent Operative collected 749 bodies of rats and 152 bodies of mice. Poisoned and gassed rats often die in inaccessible places and an estimate of total kill runs between 3,000 and 3,150.

In November, 1948 the Council decided to offer free treatment for rat infested domestic premises, whilst shops and business premises should continue to pay the cost of rat destruction in accordance with the Acts and Orders. The free treatment of dwellings led to easier acceptance of the service by occupiers and consequently better results.

The Sewers throughout the district were given two treatments. The first was completed in March 1949, when 439 manholes were found in the foul systems, 247 of which were baited on consecutive days. 114 manholes shewed pre-bait takes, in no case was there complete takes on one or both days. 192 manholes were not suitable for baiting owing to flooding or lack of benching. Poison takes were not noted.

On the second treatment carried out in September, 488 manholes were baited of which 130 shewed pre-bait takes and 17 shewed complete takes.

On both occasions sausage rusk was used as the bait base and 5% zinc phosphide was the poison. Poison takes not being noted, no estimate of rats killed can be arrived at. Sewer treatments always result in a period of fewer notifications of surface infestations being received.

WORKS DONE AND NUISANCES ABATED AT PREMISES (OTHER THAN FARMS AND DAIRIES) DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

HOUSING

EXTERNAL

Walls—

Taken down and re-built	..	..	..	..	..	3
Raked and re-pointed or rendered	..	..	..	..	..	26
Door sills repaired or new fixed	..	..	..	..	..	5
Horizontal damp-proof courses inserted	..	..	..	..	..	1
Vertical damp proofing of walls	..	..	..	..	..	9
Open areas constructed	..	..	..	..	..	2
Sub-floor ventilation provided or increased	..	..	..	..	..	2

Roofs—							
Stripped and re-slatted or re-tiled	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Repaired and made weather-proof	..	..	..	..	..	52	
Torched	..	..	..	..	..	4	
Skylights repaired	..	..	..	..	..	4	
Gutterings—							
Repaired and/or new provided and fixed	..	..	..	..	..	26	
Downspouts—							
Repaired and/or new provided and fixed	..	..	..	..	..	23	
Chimney Stacks—							
Wholly or in part taken down and re-built	..	..	..	..	..	13	
Raked and re-pointed	..	..	..	..	..	10	
Pots provided and fixed	..	..	..	..	..	—
Yards, Courts and Passages—							
Taken up and re-laid or concreted	..	..	..	..	..	25	
Water Supply—							
Laid on into houses	..	..	..	..	..	44	
Standpipes removed	..	..	..	..	..	5	
Wells dis-used	..	..	..	..	..	—
New pumps provided to wells or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	—
Wells cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	—
Wells repaired	..	..	..	..	..	—
Hot systems provided and fixed, or existing repaired	..	..	..	..	..	1	
“Furred-up” service replaced	..	..	..	..	..	2	
Bursts repaired	..	..	..	..	..	6	
Drainage—							
New lengths drain and/or drainage systems provided	..	..	..	..	..	16	
Defective drains re-laid	..	..	..	..	..	6	
New inspection chambers constructed	..	..	..	..	..	10	
Septic tanks repaired	..	..	..	..	..	—
Defective inspection chamber covers replaced	..	..	..	..	..	6	
Connections to sewer	..	..	..	..	..	6	
Cesspools repaired	..	..	..	..	..	1	
New cesspools constructed	..	..	..	..	..	—
Ventilation shafts repaired	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Cesspools cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	1	
New gullies provided	..	..	..	..	..	14	
Obstructed drains released	..	..	..	..	..	12	
Septic tanks and percolating beds built	..	..	..	..	..	—
Closet Accommodation—							
Conversions to W.C.s	..	..	..	..	..	6	
New W.C. compartments built	..	..	..	..	..	31	
New W.C. pedestals fixed	..	..	..	..	..	13	
W.C. cisterns repaired and/or new provided	..	..	..	..	..	18	
Miscellaneous repairs to closet compartments	..	..	..	..	..	21	

From W.W.C. to W.C.	..	..	..	..	..	3
Privies converted to pails	..	..	..	..	..	15
New pail closets built ..	..	..	..	..	..	2
New Pails provided ..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Washing Accommodation—						
New wash-houses built	..	..	..	..	..	1
Dilapidated coppers repaired	..	..	..	..	..	15
New furnace pans fixed	..	..	..	..	..	4
Copper flues repaired ..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Water laid to wash-houses	..	..	..	..	..	1
Floors concreted ..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Ashes Accommodation—						
New ash bins provided	..	..	..	..	..	315
Ashpits put into dis-use	..	..	..	..	..	—
Outbuildings—						
Repaired .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Fuel Stores						
New constructed	..	..	..	..	..	1
Repaired .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
INTERNAL						
Walls—						
Totally or in part re-plastered	..	..	..	..	..	49
Ceilings						
Totally or in part re-plastered	..	..	..	..	..	35
Windows						
Defective frames repaired or replaced	..	..	..	..	..	26
Windows re-corded ..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Doors—						
Repaired, replaced and/or weather boards fixed	..	..	..	..	..	19
Floors—						
Boarded floors replaced and/or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	13
Defective skirtings replaced	..	..	..	..	..	1
Quarry floors re-laid ..	..	..	..	..	..	27
New concrete floors laid	..	..	..	..	..	1
Staircases—						
Woodwork repaired .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Handrails provided and fixed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	—
Fire Ranges and Grates—						
Repaired and/or new fixed	..	..	..	..	..	40
Sinks—						
New sinks provided and fixed ..	..	..	..	..	..	29
New wastes fitted or existing repaired	..	..	..	..	..	6

Sinks re-set	4
Sculleries—	
New constructed	—
Pantries—	
Improved	—
New provided	—
Smoke Abatement—	
Smoke nuisances remedied	3

MISCELLANEOUS

Premises rat-proofed	2
Rat infested premises cleared	60
Offensive accumulations removed	5
Keeping of animals nuisances abated	3
Food Preparing Premises—	
New making-up places built	1
Cleansed and improved	2
River pollution prevented	—
New sanitary accommodation at factories	—
Fire escape facilities at factories	—
Water courses cleaned out	4
Other nuisances abated	14
Soft water tanks replaced	1

